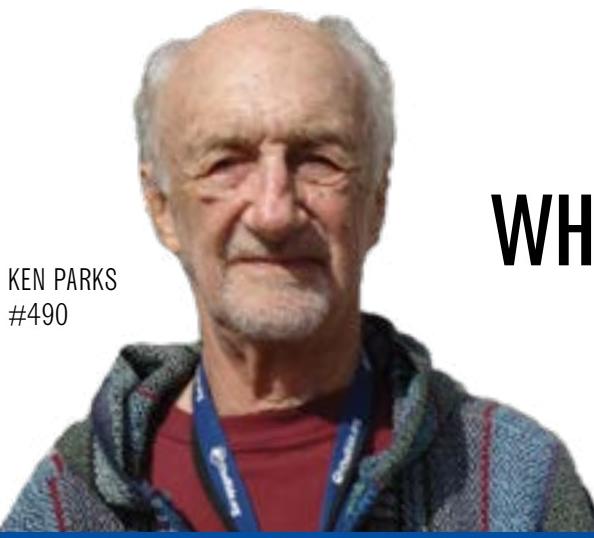


\$2

NOVEMBER 17, 2023 | VOLUME 14 | ISSUE 24

YOUR PURCHASE BENEFITS THE VENDORS.
PLEASE BUY ONLY FROM BADGED VENDORS.

My struggle to banish drugs and
keep my babies. **Page 10**



ASK YOUR
VENDOR:
**WHAT ARE YOU
GRATEFUL
FOR?**

GROUND COVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP | WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICH.

**Defending Jackson: Community rallies
around local man caught in justice system.**
page 4



Shihab Jackson appears before Washtenaw County Circuit Judge Carol Kuhnke in Ann Arbor on Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2023. Jacob Hamilton | MLive.com

THIS PAPER WAS BOUGHT FROM



@groundcovernews, include vendor name and vendor #

Gary D. Robinson

June 13, 1960 - November 3, 2023

Gary "Moose" Dwayne Robinson, vendor No. 224, passed away Friday, November 3. Gary was a beloved member of the Groundcover News family. We remember him fondly, dancing on the corner outside the old Starbucks on Main Street, arms spread open, making his customers — and us — smile.

He is survived by his sons, Gary Leverett, Groundcover vendor No. 554, and Santana Taylor and his sister Genise Smith.



**Gary and his wife, Celeste
in 2016.**

Hal Klenk

April 1944 - October 2023



Harold "Hal" Klenk was a True American.

Born in 1944 during WWII, he was raised in Roseville, Mich. Like any other boy of the time, Hal loved sports. Bill (his brother) and Hal were in all the competitive sports together and Bill was eventually the athletic director at Alma College in Michigan, where sports facilities are named after him.

Hal loved the Tigers, Pistons and Red Wings. Hal loved good food, good friends and His Savior Jesus Christ. Hal loved us — his fellow man. Hal was a dynamic teacher of the Bible, making it practical, doable and easy to understand. His theme verse was John 10:10 where it is stated that men and women are to "live life to its fullest in every category, in abundance" and that was a promise from Christ. Hal could teach people how to be free in life.

Hal was both an Air Force and Army Veteran; he excelled in his profession as a medical technician. He was able to perform emergency surgeries that a qualified physician should do. Being resourceful, Hal once made use of the clinics Autoclaves, used to high heat and high pressure sterilize

instruments, to cook the Thanksgiving turkeys ... they were hot, very tasty and sterilized to boot!

After the military, Hal made Bible classes and studies available to everyone in his home. Hal made friends far and wide through his military and church experiences — as far as India and as close as Ypsilanti. Hal may have lost some of his shine in later years, but he had a heart of GOLD and we all saw that.

Hal is survived by family in Michigan: Kristin (Salvatore) LaMendola, Ryan (Pamela) Holmes, and Gregg (Jessica) Holmes, and his sister, Sharon Malay. He will be missed.

A memorial service will be held at a later date, at Great Lakes National [veterans] Cemetery.

www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/greatlakes.asp

GROUNDCOVER NEWS

Groundcover News, a 501(c)(3) organization, was founded in April 2010 as a means to empower low-income persons to make the transitions from homeless to housed, and from jobless to employed.

Vendors purchase each copy of our regular editions of Groundcover News at our office for 50 cents. This money goes towards production costs. Vendors work selling the paper on the street for \$2, keeping all income and tips from each sale.

Street papers like Groundcover News exist in cities all over the United States, as well as in more than 40 other countries, in an effort to raise awareness of the plight of homeless people and combat the increase in poverty. Our paper is a proud member of the International Network of Street Papers.

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PROVIDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR SELF-DETERMINED INDIVIDUALS IMPACTED BY POVERTY, PRODUCING A STREET NEWSPAPER THAT GIVES A PLATFORM TO UNDERREPRESENTED VOICES IN WASHTENAW COUNTY, PROMOTING AN ACTION TO BUILD A JUST, CARING AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETY.

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Size	Black/White	Color	Dimensions (W x H in inches)
1/8	\$110.00	\$150.00	5 X 3 or 2.5 X 6.5
1/6	\$145.00	\$200.00	5 X 4
1/4	\$200.00	\$265.00	5 X 6.25
1/2	\$375.00	\$500.00	5 X 13 or 10.25 X 6.5
full page	\$650.00	\$900.00	10.25 X 13

PACKAGE PRICING

Three Months/Six Issues:	15% off
Six Months/Twelve Issues:	25% off
Full Year/Twenty-four Issues:	35% off
Only run for two weeks/one issue:	40% off
Additional 20% discount for money saving coupons	

ASK YOUR VENDOR

What are you grateful for?

I'm grateful for Groundcover News.

— Ken Parks, #490

Jesus Christ.

— Gary Leverett, #554

My successful daughter, Denali!

— Cindy Gere, #279

This job [Groundcover News]. Without it, I wouldn't have a roof over my head.

— Terri Demar, #322

Jesus, life, my mom, my pets, my jobs, my special woods and warm dwelling. Love and a heart filled with it. Giving. Fresh new opportunities, for-giveness. Grace. Meatloaf and mashed potatoes with gravy.

— Amanda Gale, #573

I'm always thankful to live another day.

— Andrew White, #560

Groundcover. If I wasn't selling, I would be homeless, not making any money.

— Eamonn Ofoighil, #531

There's so much to be thankful for ... but I have to say, Groundcover!

— Lonnie Baker, #99

An ode to the homeless ones



JAMIE CAMERON
Groundcover vendor No. 612

I've seen you as a ninja on his way here and there for some reason. Stay strong silent warriors. I've visited you as an associate minister to the homeless, keep hope in your heart.

I see you all while I'm homeless myself; stay strong, rest as you can, child of God.

I see the ones barely holding onto reality, stuck between worlds, may you find your light and your way.

I see the weary, who need a moment of rest near someone like

me.

I see my fellow nicotine addicts. Pro-tip: rather than catching the flu by smoking the first butts you find, buy some papers and roll it up, cowpoke.

I see the addicts of the "big three" and their derivatives. Do yourself a favor and get sober, a program like Celebrate Recovery can work miracles.

I see the frightened youth. Be safe all, and may we all find a place to call our house and home.

Undercover art intel: Delonis arts and crafts fun Wednesday



CINDY GERE
Groundcover vendor No. 279

one's love to the world.

Anyone going through homelessness is welcome to join this class on Wednesday from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. I hope to help others make new friends as well.

I also used this time to make gifts for others for the holidays and happy birthdays for my buddies. Art is a way to show love to others we truly care about. So come, bring a friend and do art as a group of friends. Art made a difference in my life and I hope it can do the same thing for you.

The Robert J. Delonis Center is located at 312 W. Huron St.

Eamonn Ofoighil



View more of
Eamonn's artwork
on Instagram:
@dj_chirish734

Though the tree thins
The ground now heavy,
with the shedding of leaves,
the thoughts that fell.

Now as I here now stand, are as heaps
on the ground
I'll use my leaves, which became my testimonies to bring all who see and hear
to Gods' WORD!

It's MI Homeless Awareness Month: Get involved!

Michigan Homeless Awareness Month began in November 2019 in response to the increase in homelessness. National Homeless Awareness Month takes place in November. Homeless Awareness Month is intended to give focus to the growing crisis and provide information that the public might not otherwise have.

Awareness of any societal issue is important, but knowledge about our unhoused neighbors can make the difference in helping a person survive. It is particularly important in Michigan because of its climate. In the midwest states, winter temperatures typically hover around freezing or below. While many people scramble to use all of their energies and available resources to escape the cold; not all are able to do so.

Lack of awareness has, in the past, had deadly consequences for those who are unhoused. People in cold, midwestern states such as Michigan are where people have frozen to death. Take the case of the 28-year-old athlete LaShawn Goode who was living in his car in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was found frozen to death one day. In Michigan, a man froze while sleeping outside of a church. And in Ohio, a man



LIT KURTZ
Groundcover vendor No. 159

who had worked closely with a homeless organization froze at a bus stop while trying to sleep there.

Awareness can also serve to destigmatize those who are experiencing living unhoused. LaShawn Goode's family was unaware that he was living in his car and following his death encouraged others to "... reach out to the people closest to them," saying they had no idea the former athlete had been sleeping in his car. Undoubtedly, he had been too embarrassed to let them know his circumstances.

While cold temperatures are unique to northern states, there are many other facets of living unhoused that Michigan

shares with other states. These systemic problems include a lack of sanitary space and access to nutritious food and storage.

Once people are cognizant of problems through awareness programs, there will be more attention given to these issues. Without public awareness, the chances are reduced that they will be addressed and resolved in a meaningful way.

Unfortunately, most people lack information about the homeless situation and pass judgment based on negative perceptions. As a result, many individuals fall into homelessness themselves because they believe that they are somehow immune.

Yes, there are the typical issues of mental health and addiction, but there are a myriad of other reasons that can cause a person to become unhoused. Divorce, family disputes, medical illness, conflicts with roommates and many others play a role in a person losing housing. Awareness opens the door to communication and is a reminder that everyone is our neighbor.

This can help us to learn to treat those less fortunate with the respect they deserve.

Unfortunately, not too many groups have hosted homeless awareness activities, which leaves much of the population to remain uninformed about some of the most basic issues facing those who are experiencing this crisis.

Right now, it is just a proclamation on a document that Governor Whitmer signed to go into effect. Until schools, churches and the general community put activities in place there is little promise for change.

An individual can be proactive in becoming more aware. The Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness has a calendar of events that one can attend during November.

The coalition's mission statement reads as follows:

"We serve as an inclusive statewide voice to improve systems and support communities to prevent and end homelessness in a way that leaves no one behind."

If you have not yet taken the time to become more knowledgeable about the plight of the unhoused, this is an opportune time to become familiar. This year, Homeless Awareness Month also coincides with the introduction of a Michigan Homeless Bill of Rights.

Defending Jackson: Community rallies around local man caught in justice system

CYNTHIA PRICE Editor

Imagine you're a young Black man experiencing homelessness, and you're small (let's imagine 5'2" and 127 pounds). Imagine you've been victimized several times, including being robbed at gunpoint. What do you do? For many people across America, the answer would be, "Get a gun."

In the case of Shihab Jackson, he came up with other answers as well: cultivate a peaceful, emotionally-regulated demeanor, enlist the aid of friends and allies until he could obtain a home ... but he also decided a gun would protect him.

His efforts at peaceful solutions ran up against a barrier on March 11, 2023. Jackson failed to signal as he made a right turn. His car was not in good shape and his brake light was out, and police in the area pulled Jackson over.

A pretext stop is when law enforcement stops a driver for a low-level violation while actually looking for more

serious crimes. Or as Washtenaw County Sheriff Jerry Clayton says in a WXYZ article from March 2021, "It's bad when the police are randomly stopping people, randomly asking for consent on a fishing expedition." Prosecutor Eli Savit adds in that article, "these [can be] stops that uncover evidence of ... crimes, but there are many, many more that are humiliating, that ... erode the trust of the community ..."

The context of that WXYZ piece was Savit's promise not to prosecute crimes that resulted from such stops. At his arrest, Jackson made a motion that led the police to believe he was running away, and they tackled him. It was only then they found the gun Jackson was carrying to protect himself. The problem? Jackson is a felon and the law is clear that felons cannot carry guns.

Jackson's supporter and friend Brian Geiringer, who has seen the police-generated footage, says that it's not clear that Jackson's intent was to run away, and the police response was an overreaction. Geiringer's next

shock was that cash bail was set, since that too had been something Savit agreed not to do (though Savit can only recommend, as judges have the final say).

Geiringer and others rallied the community to spread the word and change the outcomes, not only for Jackson but for future nonviolent offenders who might be caught in the legal system's snare.

Ultimately, Jackson was charged with five felony counts including both felon in possession of a firearm and felon in possession of ammunition, a practice supporters are calling "charge stacking." There were also two charges of "resisting, obstructing or assaulting a police officer." Later, Jackson was asked to plead guilty to three of these charges, and if he did so some of the duplicative charges would be dropped. He refused.

Supporters say it's important for Prosecutor Savit to take that into account and reduce the charges accordingly, asking in a printed piece "Who does this protect? Who does this serve?" Commented Geiringer, "It's hard to hear Jackson speak for too

see JACKSON page 11 ➤



TECH QUESTIONS + ANSWERS FROM WASHTENAW LITERACY

Q: I need to use the internet but I can't afford a computer, tablet or smartphone, let alone WiFi. Do I have any options?

A: These days it seems like you need to get online to do just about anything in life. Crucial tasks such as finding a job or scheduling a doctor's appointment can feel almost impossible without a reliable way to connect to the internet. This growing necessity makes a lack of access all the more difficult to overcome.

How are you supposed to pay for a computer and internet service, when you need to already have both to get a job? To avoid that kind of trap it is more important than ever to know how to get connected without breaking the bank.

Depending on your specific needs, local libraries may be able to serve as a temporary solution. All of the branches in the Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti library systems have internet-connected desktop computers available for public use. Libraries also have free wireless internet which is fairly reliable inside their buildings. Ann Arbor District Libraries even provide free printing for their visitors, although the number of pages you can print is limited.

His supporters feel his pain and have rallied, held press conferences, spoken at public events, and attended every one of his hearings. The charges are particularly offensive because they know Jackson to be an intelligent, level-headed, kind and helpful person. The charges paint him as dangerous and violent, but speaking with the University of Michigan Sociology graduate, or observing him in roles such as the co-emcee of a recent Peace Circle held by the Interfaith Council on Peace and Justice, puts the lie to that.

Supporters say it's important for Prosecutor Savit to take that into account and reduce the charges accordingly, asking in a printed piece "Who does this protect? Who does this serve?" Commented Geiringer, "It's hard to hear Jackson speak for too

A: In the September 8 edition of "Can You Dig-It," we mentioned that the portability of cell phones can be both a blessing and a curse. This question provides another great example! Although your phone's battery allows you to use it nearly anywhere, it also means that it can run out of charge, sometimes unexpectedly. At best, a dead phone battery is a frustrating inconvenience, but at worst it can leave you lost or stranded, without a way to call for help.

Most modern cell phones use lithium-ion batteries, which slowly degrade over time. As a result of that deterioration, your phone's battery will work for less and less time before

providers. That means that it is worth shopping around to look for good deals and figure out which provider will be the best for you. To entice you to use your benefits on their phone plan, some service providers offer a free smartphone when you start a plan with them through Lifeline or the ACP.

You can get more information and apply for ACP and Lifeline benefits online at www.getinternet.gov. You can also call the ACP support center at (877) 384-2575. Another option is to find a participating internet or phone provider and apply for ACP and Lifeline benefits through them.

Just remember that different providers have different phone plans and different deals, so it's important to compare offers to find what's best for you.

If you're confused or overwhelmed by all of the different providers offering ACP and Lifeline plans, look out for the next edition of "Can You Dig-It." We will go over how to compare internet and phone plans and how to make sure you get the plan that is right for you! We will also give some useful tips about how to use a new smartphone.

Q: My phone keeps dying in the middle of the day even though I charge it every night. Is it broken? How can I fix this?

A: In the September 8 edition of "Can You Dig-It," we mentioned that the portability of cell phones can be both a blessing and a curse. This question provides another great example! Although your phone's battery allows you to use it nearly anywhere, it also means that it can run out of charge, sometimes unexpectedly. At best, a dead phone battery is a frustrating inconvenience, but at worst it can leave you lost or stranded, without a way to call for help.

Both the ACP and Lifeline programs work through participating private phone and internet

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2) Call 734-482-4110
3) Or stop by any YDL location!

DON'T HAVE A DRIVER'S LICENSE? We can work with a variety of IDs to get you your card.

TOOLS TO HELP

Holiday Book Sale
The Friends of YDL Holiday Book sale will be November 18-19 at the Whittaker Road branch (5577 Whittaker Rd.). Knock out some of your tricky holiday shopping!
Nov. 18: 11am-3pm
Nov. 19: 1-4pm
Details at ypsilibrary.org/events.

FEATURED EVENT

MONICA HICKSON: THE COVID DIARIES

December 2 | 4pm
YDL-Superior (1900 Harris Rd.)
Local author Monica Hickson will discuss her nonfiction memoirs "The COVID Diaries" and "He's Not My Type" to share her experience of losing a loved one to COVID. She will share her stories and discuss how COVID has changed our lives over the past three years. There will be time for Q&A, and copies of Monica's books available for purchase.

If you struggle with technology, reading, writing, or math, you may be eligible for tutoring through Washtenaw Literacy. For more information, or to volunteer as a tutor, visit washtenawliteracy.org or call 734-337-3338.

YPSILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY

America at War

Author's note: The opinion expressed is that of the author and does not reflect the opinion of Groundcover News.

How can the citizens of Washtenaw County protect our country without using bullets?

During the just-started fiscal year, Oct. 1, America's debt has increased by more than \$500 billion. Half a trillion dollars in less than one month. This is due to the Israel-Palestine conflict and the Ukraine-Russia war.

The two wars are only one problem in what appears to be a divide-and-conquer tactic by America's enemies. There are at least two wars with bullets and also many wars without bullets. America has several enemies and large problems which are raising the national debt. David Schweikert (R-AZ), Vice-Chairman of the Joint Economic Committee, posts the increases daily on his website schweikert.house.gov/:



JANE REILLY
Groundcover vendor No. 611

National Debt: Increase of \$2.4 trillion over the last 364 days.

"We're borrowing \$77,000 per second," Schweikert writes. "That should terrify all of us."

The Ann Arbor Coalition Against War often has been seen on Friday afternoons handing out pamphlets on the corners of 5th Avenue and East

Liberty Street.

"In just the last year, spending on Ukraine alone is close to 100 billion US taxpayer dollars," the AACAW wrote in an Oct. 6 pamphlet. "Who benefits? The booming U.S. defense industry. Companies like Lockheed Martin and Raytheon have seen stock prices skyrocket since the war began. Who pays? Working class and poor people who suffer more each day."

War certainly makes money. War is part of my definition of Evil, along with murder, all forms of trafficking (human, drug and munitions), all forms of rape (physical, financial, intellectual, emotional and spiritual), and pedophilia, a mental illness. (If medical help is not continuously attempted, then pedophilia is evil.)

Other types of war include the immigration problem due to the Mexican drug cartels. There is our domestic

see AMERICA page 9 ➤

Voodoo economics

I apologize for using a bad word in my title. "Voodoo" is the sensationalized English language sound associated with zombies, needles in dolls and other forms of evil in the racist tone that makes English the main language of imperialism.

Today the word "Islamic" is associated with fundamentalism and violence. "Islamophobia, Race and the Global Order" is a great podcast and book that shows how Zionism was promoted, especially during World War I, into the ongoing genocide of Palestinians. Oil reserves and imperialism are now in the deadliest embrace imaginable.

In 1980, Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush were competing for the Republican nomination for president. Reagan's attacks on Big Government and the promise of lower taxes were gaining public support. The argument was that lower taxes meant more money for consumers and more jobs that would increase revenue — and the magic balanced budget would appear. As I recall, Reagan also called for Star Wars, which was an arms race that required the United States outspending the USSR to oblivion. Bush accused Reagan of "voodoo economics," particularly that lower taxes would increase revenue and create a budget surplus.

Haiti has been bullied by France in particular, and the United States more recently with the 2004 kidnapping of Aristide for a U.S.-supported coup to keep Haiti as a cheap labor investment opportunity. Papa Doc Duvalier was among the most brutal dictators until his death in 1971. He ruled with terrorist gangs and set the tone for the ongoing gang culture of Haiti. The United States supported Papa Doc, then Baby Doc, as they both brutalized the population for cheap labor and corruption.

The war machine is not considered Big Government by the corporate media, even though it is the big ticket item that has grown into the \$30 trillion in debt we now face. As fiat currency (backed by a government but lacking



KEN PARKS
Groundcover vendor No. 490

the backing of a commodity such as gold) skyrocketed with the pandemic and forever wars, we have a new voodoo economics promoting inflation and an unstable global political economy. More billions for war are demanded, including \$120 million to invade Haiti again.

believers" otherize everyone else and trigger one inquisition or "witch hunt" after the other.

Bureaucratic compliance is the elephant in the room of this discourse. Its authoritarian nature and chain of command structure create multiple gridlocks that use our time to lay waste to the natural world as we bow down to the gods of capital. Our inner child is repressed by the adult lost in compliance. Freedom may lie buried deep in our hearts; the work to connect with this essential nature is the best work we can choose.

Start wherever you are and practice some diligence to stay with the task until some level of completion. Find teachers and therapists who point the way to completion.

I propose that Groundcover develop a relationship with the Karuna Buddhist Center and Bethlehem United Church of Christ and work with the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice and others to do workshops on mind training, lifestyle medicine, meditation and prayer. We can bring theory and practice together as we compost war and grow peace.



St. Francis of Assisi Parish

"If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and am here; I did not come on my own, but he sent me."
+ Christ Jesus (John 8:42)

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Mass Schedule

Saturday 5 pm (English) & 7 pm (Spanish)

Sunday 8:30 am, 10:30 am,
12:30 pm, 5 pm

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The human race

SANDRA GOMEZ
Groundcover vendor No. 616

What exactly is the Human Race
When people could no longer look you in the Face
Where technology has made people lazy
What happened to the fields where you could pick daisies?
Where people are attracted to Cell phones, Ipods, and such
Where young people seem rude no matters much
Everyone in America wants to be part of a team
While people from other countries just want to live the American Dream

Does anyone really care about the human race?
Or will we all kill each other and leave no trace
We are all together brothers and sisters
What happened to the days when
people greeted you, "Good Day Mister"
Funny how we get criticized
and scrutinized at the job

Seems like people just want to rob
you of your dignity, respect, and honor
Sometimes I feel like life is a bad movie, full of horror
The pain, the suffering, the casualties of war
Don't worry, if you die, you'll be buried like a celebrity, a star
With guns, men in uniform and a flag
And all you had to do was pack your bag;
For all the abandoned children on this earth
Because their immature parents were unready for their birth
For the girl who just wanted to have sex

When the guy she was with was still with his ex
Funny how the news feeds off of people's tragedy
While government works behind closed doors on a new strategy
To put down their fellow man
Shouldn't we be working together to ban

The destruction, hatred, and discrimination
In our failing ignorant minds, Is that too much contemplation?
So much anger, frustration, and people being unkind
Wouldn't it be simple and more relaxing to just unwind
Pray, Chant, or Meditate

Trying to find the answers to eradicate
The reason for our everyday actions
Bring about equal and opposite reactions
To the many things we do and say
Why is life so hard, why does it have to be this way?
Why can't life be kind and nice
Don't you love it at weddings, everyone throws rice
Everyone I see walks around with a frown instead of a smile
What is so wrong with your life, contemplate that for a while.

Love is a mighty stream



MIKE JONES
Groundcover vendor No. 113

great Stevie Wonder graced the stage with his beautiful voice, he and his contemporaries were the soundtrack of love in America. The Motown Sounds was an expression of love, not just in the Black neighborhoods, but all the neighborhoods in America. We were living in a better America than we are living in now.

In those days, love was at the core of our society, community and family. American society is failing now because of a lack of love. America has become a war zone. What used to take place in the middle of the night in the back alleys of Detroit, Michigan, is now taking place all over America in broad daylight. Let's get rid of the hate and the guns, and let's make love in America great again.

The generation I grew up in had more freedom than our children and grandchildren. Imagine that! We are going backward, America! It is time to reverse course before we go to an unnecessary place. Others like myself are looking forward to ushering in a new world that would minimize the "isms." Racism, sexism and fascism: we can do better as a society with less of that.

Peace, love and happiness are what we naturally strive for but are not always obtainable. People from all walks of life, from all parts of the world, are trying to penetrate the borders of the free world in the pursuit of just that.

I challenge all Americans and all humanity to express love to one another. Love is the greatest healing power on Earth.

Pre-dating the time period, the

there is much silence in the night.

According to the footnotes of the Holy Bible translation into English language, day begins at sunset, so the night as part of day is expressed. The same light that shines on our star and the source of life on this planet. The same light that shines on the moon, they say, comes through our star, the sun.

There are degrees of light in the night time. In darkness, one may allow vision to adjust to light that is hidden in shadow in low-frequency. There are other Stars. Those stars cast their light in the cosmos. There is such a quiet at night after midnight & before sunrise, because many people sleep at night



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follow Jesus
respect all people
honor questions
be real
nurture community

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The world at night

BILLY HILL

There seems to be another place. The world comes alive at night in ways that do not come to mind when the sun is up & shines on us. The sun is our star and the source of life on this planet. The same light that shines on the moon, they say, comes through our star, the sun.

There are degrees of light in the night time. In darkness, one may allow vision to adjust to light that is hidden in shadow in low-frequency. There are other Stars. Those stars cast their light in the cosmos. There is such a quiet at night after midnight & before sunrise, because many people sleep at night

Erick the Dream Giver needs you!

ERICK BROWN
Groundcover vendor No. 617

My name is Erick the Dream Giver. I am a traveler, a helper and a dreamer who shares my adventures and stories on my YouTube channel. I also do odd jobs along the way to make money and support my cause.

I traveled around the USA with my goat, Deer, who was my emotional support animal. He died a few years ago and I miss him very much. He was my partner in crime who joined me in all my travels and adventures. He was also the inspiration behind my channel and my mission.

My mission is to inspire people to pursue their dreams and live their best lives. I believe that everyone has a dream inside them, and I want to help them discover it and achieve it. I say that I am a dream giver because I give people hope, motivation and guidance to follow their hearts and heads.

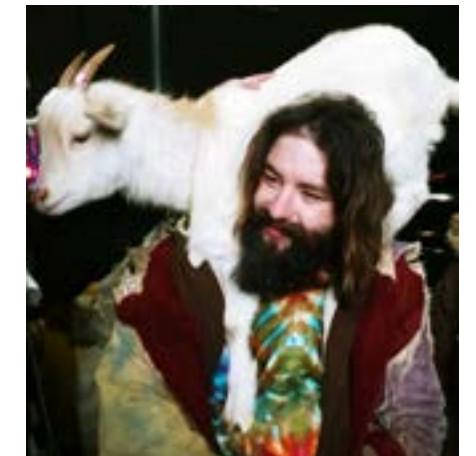
However, I also face some challenges. I live in a school bus that I converted into an RV tiny home. I use it as my vehicle and my shelter

while traveling. Unfortunately, my bus broke down two years ago and I have been trying to raise money to fix it ever since. I also need to find a mechanic who can repair it.

To make money for my bus repair and my living expenses, I do odd jobs wherever I go. I am willing to do anything that people need, even dirty jobs. I have done homesteading, solar panel installation, sanitation work, construction work, mining work, agriculture work, animal care work, and more. I enjoy doing different kinds of jobs because I learn new skills and meet new people.

I am asking for your support to help me get my bus back on the road. I have set up a fundraiser on my website where you can donate any amount you can afford. I also accept donations in other forms such as food, water, gas or tools. I appreciate any help you can offer me.

You can also support me by subscribing to my YouTube channel, watching my videos, liking and commenting on them, and sharing them with your friends and family. You can also follow me on



social media where I post updates on my travels and my fundraiser. You can also send me messages of encouragement and gratitude.

YouTube: [@erickthedreamgiver](https://www.youtube.com/@erickthedreamgiver)
GoFundMe:
[gofund.me/ericksdreammachine](https://www.gofundme.com/f/ericksdreammachine)

I am a remarkable person who is making a difference in the world. I am a traveler, a helper and a dreamer. I am Erick the Dream Giver, and I need your help to continue my mission. Support me today!

Sincerely,
Erick the Dream Giver

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The Washtenaw County Weatherization Program has **EXPANDED**. Income guidelines have **INCREASED**. All work is **FREE** of charge!

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Income must be at or below 80% area median income (AMI) to qualify:

Household Size	1	2	3	4	5	6
Income Limit 80% AMI	\$62,600	\$71,550	\$80,500	\$89,400	\$96,600	\$103,750

Benefits of Weatherization

- Comfort
- Lower Utility Bills
- Energy Savings
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washtenaw.org/weatherization



Sudoku ★★★★ 4puz.com

		7			9			
2			4			6		
3		1	6			2		
6	8	3			2	7	5	
1		7	2		3			
7	9	2			4	6	1	
5		4	1			8		
8			3				7	
		1			5			

Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

Groundcover Vendor Code

While Groundcover is a non-profit, and paper vendors are self-employed contractors, we still have expectations of how vendors should conduct themselves while selling and representing the paper.

or terminated.

- I agree to treat all customers, staff, and other vendors respectfully. I will not "hard sell," threaten, harass or pressure customers, staff, or other vendors verbally or physically.

• I will not sell Groundcover under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

The following is our **Vendor Code of Conduct**, which every vendor reads and signs before receiving a badge and papers. We request that if you discover a vendor violating any tenets of the Code, please contact us and provide as many details as possible. Our paper and our vendors should be positively impacting our County.

• I understand that I am not a legal employee of Groundcover but a contracted worker responsible for my own well-being and income.

• I understand that my badge is property of Groundcover and will not deface it. I will present my badge when purchasing the papers.

• I agree to stay off private property when selling Groundcover.

• I understand to refrain from selling on public buses, federal property or stores unless there is permission from the owner.

• When selling Groundcover, I will always have the current biweekly issue of Groundcover available for customer purchase.

• I agree to stay at least one block away from another vendor in downtown areas. I will also abide by the Vendor Corner Policy.

• I understand that Groundcover strives to be a paper that covers topics of homelessness and poverty while providing sources of income for the homeless. I will try to help in this effort and spread the word.

If you would like to report a violation of the Vendor Code please email contact@groundcovernews.com or fill out the contact form on our website.

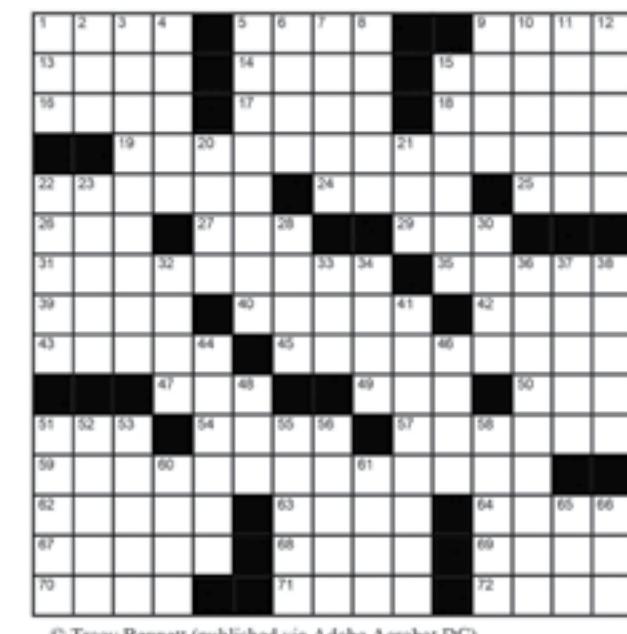
• I will only purchase the paper from Groundcover Staff and will not sell to or buy papers from other Groundcover vendors, especially vendors who have been suspended

Pass the Gravy

by Tracy Bennett

ACROSS

- Reverberate
- Tomato variety named for a city
- Performs
- Typical hour for lunch
- Greek god of passion
- Regional plant life
- Ellipsis, essentially
- Edible seaweed
- Welcome into the house
- Extra dining surface for an annual gathering?
- Exactly right, in Brit-speak
- "Shoo!"
- Of a bygone time
- Contractor's guess: Abbr.
- Promos
- Pushup muscle, for short
- Feat performed by someone bringing in more seats!
- Wainwright who co-headlined the 2019 Ann Arbor Folk Festival
- Body ink, slangily
- White wader
- Monthly household expense
- Very buff, in modern lingo
- Dish piled high with leftovers for each departing guest?
- Corn unit
- a visit
- "Chandelier" singer
- Journalist and activist B. Wells
- Brand for those making room for fourths
- Girl in a Grimm fairy tale
- What a host might find after the last guest drives off?
- Encourage
- Signal farewell
- Lavish celebration
- friends (surrounded by loving folk)
- Word with family or Christmas
- French city near Grenoble
- Chimed
- Plant with frouds
- Catch sight of



- Finale
- Chirp like a dove
- Something eaten but not discussed at Thanksgiving?
- Commencement
- Light anew, as an old flame
- Black-and-white cookie
- Gelatin dessert shapers
- Gelatin layer from bone stock
- Alan of M*A*S*H
- Mix-and-match meal deal
- Sing like a canary
- Happily and fully full
- Needling to loosen one's belt after dining, say
- Ready to ! (cheering for the Detroit Lions)
- Upper limit
- Religious factions
- "I don't believe that!"
- Satisfied exhalation
- Ringlet
- Belle Park (Detroit River nature area)
- To and
- Holiday staffer, maybe
- Loosen, as laces
- Total bargain
- Matcha-inspired shade
- Best Thanksgiving tradition, som say
- Fire: Prefix
- Participate in a local Turkey Trot
- Worrier's words
- Religious doctrine
- First noble gas, alphabetically
- Workweek letters
- Piece of the pie
- Sharp-eyed raptor
- Donkey (video game)
- Of all time
- Prune
- Best kind of pie, some say

► AMERICA from page 6

Palestine and America. Many states in America helped the Mexican drug cartels by legalizing marijuana. The New York Times ran a photo on the front page of Mexican cartels guarding football-field-sized crops of marijuana with AK-47 machine guns.

We are making progress by not fighting a civil war, which may have been instigated in part by Vladimir Putin's involvement in the 2016 presidential election. Make no mistake: the Black Lives Matter protests helped create the necessary 21st-century policing laws. New laws and continuing nationwide systematic changes are the appropriate response. But some people took advantage of Floyd's death and the ensuing legal protests to distract from or hide illegal behavior; trying to pull apart America from the inside by creating a civil war where we kill each other. Floyd was murdered during the pandemic, a different distraction. Besides massive deaths, the pandemic enabled medical fraud.

A war without bullets. A war fought with money.

How can the citizens of Washtenaw County protect our country without using bullets? Consider each and every purchase. Your money funds individuals, companies and corporations. Make sure your money is being put to the best possible use funding ideas and ideals that are fueled by your ethics and values.

Mohammed bin Salman, Crown

My struggle to banish drugs and keep my babies

Content warning: suicide.

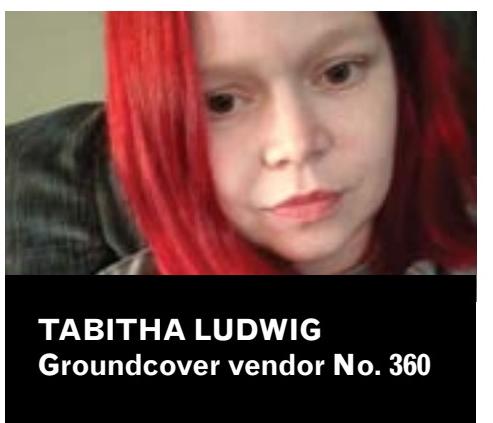
My name is Tabitha Ludwig. A lot of you have most likely seen me selling Groundcover News. I am going to tell you a little bit about who I am.

Well, I just turned 34 in September. I have five amazing children. My son is my oldest; he will be 16 this year. I still can't believe it. He has grown up so much. I have four daughters: Angel (11-years-old), Sofina (8-years-old), Crystal (2-years-old) and Lena (my baby I just had this year).

A funny story is Angel and Sofina both have the same birthday, just three years apart. Sofina was so determined to be born on her big sister's birthday that I ended up giving birth to her in the back seat of my dad's car right before midnight. But that will be a different story and a different article on a different day in a different issue — so stay tuned for that.

Back in the beginning of 2016, I became a drug addict and I gave my children (the two I had at the time, Thomas and Sofina, because Angel lived with her father) to my father and stepmother.

I started using crack cocaine and it got really bad, fast. I ended up doing a lot of things I wish I never did. For one, I started selling my body to get high. I stole, I lied and I ended up in and out of jail a lot. I stopped selling my body and started selling Groundcover in



TABITHA LUDWIG
Groundcover vendor No. 360

October of 2016.

A few months later, I ended up in jail for nine months. When I got out, I went right back to getting high. Just a couple months after getting out of jail, my sister Crystal (she also sold Groundcover and I have written articles about her) was murdered. She got stabbed to death. I took it hard and kept getting high.

I did try a lot of times to get clean. At one point I started using crystal meth because it had my sister's name in it. Anyway, that was the excuse I told myself to make myself think it was okay to do. I tried to kill myself by overdosing; I went to rehab and that is where I found out I was pregnant. I named my daughter Crystal after my sister.

I thought it was a sign from my sister to stop using, but as much as I hated it, I did not want the same thing to happen

I couldn't change all at once. I got out of rehab. I once again relapsed even though I was pregnant. But I did not give up. I kept trying to get clean. Unfortunately, my daughter Crystal, the 2-year-old, was born with drugs in her system. I went into labor because my body was detoxing from the crystal meth.

Thank God my daughter was born with no problems but she was taken from me and I had to leave the hospital without my baby girl. I went to rehab again and got clean and got put into a shelter. Me and my fiancé (Sean, Crystal's father), got Crystal back when she was a month old. We ended up getting out of the shelter once again. When Crystal was nine months old I lost her again for a reason that I will not mention in this article, but it will be its own article one day.

A few months later I ended up relapsing again after a year clean. I used a lot, as often as I could. And once again, I was back in jail, my first time since I did the nine months; I had to turn myself in during October 2022. But just a few hours before I turned myself in, I became pregnant. Of course, I did not know yet.

I think I did three weeks in jail that time and the first thing I did when I got home from jail was take a pregnancy test, which came back positive. I knew I did not want the same thing to happen to be easy. But I also know it's going to be well worth it.



Sean, Tabitha and newborn Lena

to stop using, but as much as I hated it,

Greek gods, mythology and American politics

Greek myths and American politics might seem very different, but they share some interesting similarities. In ancient Greek stories, you have powerful gods like Zeus, the king of gods with his thunderbolt, Hades, who ruled the underworld, and Poseidon, the god of the sea. They represent strength and control, and just like the leaders in American politics today; they are always trying to gain power and influence. This power struggle has been a big part of both ancient times and our world today, especially during elections and when important decisions are being made.

In the Greek myths, the gods often joined forces to fight big challenges. For example, Zeus, Poseidon and Hades worked together to defeat the Titans and bring about positive change. Teamwork helped them succeed. In American politics, politicians from different parties sometimes work together, like when they passed the Civil Rights Act in 1964. This shows that teamwork is still crucial today for solving



JULIANO SANCHEZ
Groundcover vendor No. 174

important problems and making things better for everyone.

Doing what's right is a key idea in Greek myths and American politics. In the Greek myth of Prometheus, he had to choose between defying Zeus to help humans or obeying Zeus and facing punishment. Gods have to make tough choices. American political leaders have to make decisions about things like the environment or healthcare that affect everyone. Being fair and honest in these choices helps build trust and make the right things

happen for everyone.

Leadership is another way Greek myths and American politics are alike. In the stories, you have gods like Athena, who is clever and plans things carefully, and Ares, who acts quickly and loves a fight. For example, in the myth of the Trojan War, we see the strategic leadership of Athena guiding the Greeks, while the impulsive and aggressive leadership of Ares is evident in the fierce battles fought by the Greek and Trojan warriors.

Similarly, in American politics, leaders such as Abraham Lincoln are known for their wise and diplomatic approach to complex issues, while figures like Theodore Roosevelt are celebrated for their direct and assertive leadership style, exemplifying the diverse spectrum of leadership styles in the political arena.

It's interesting to see how some of the same ideas about power, working together, making tough choices, different styles of leadership, and keeping order are found in both ancient Greek mythology and current American politics. These similarities show us that some things about human nature and society don't change, no matter the time or place. They remind us that these ideas are important for any society to thrive and succeed.

the U.S. government enforces laws to make sure everyone is treated fairly and that there's peace and order in the country. This helps people live together peacefully and feel secure in their communities.

However, there are some differences between the two. The powers of the Greek gods are not the same as the rules that American politicians have to follow. Also, the problems that American politicians face seem more complicated and real to us than the issues faced by the gods in these ancient stories.

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► JACKSON from page 4

The Doctor is In! Health questions answered by health professionals

U-M SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH STUDENTS

Over the next few months, students at U-M School of Public Health and Michigan Medicine will be answering some of your health questions. We will say this right up front: we are NOT doctors, though many of us are in med school, and preparing to be. We all study some aspect of health and otherwise know how to find answers to tough questions. Unfortunately, we don't have the capacity to answer your personal, specific health questions or diagnose anything. Think of big picture health questions!

Q: How do I tell my doctor something that I'm nervous to ask them?

A: First, I want to validate the need to talk honestly with your doctor, even when it's a topic you're nervous to bring up. Understanding why you are nervous helps you know what to do next. So start by asking yourself, "Why am I nervous?" Are you worried the doctor is going to brush off your concerns without appropriate medical care? Are you worried they will stigmatize or judge you? Analyzing this and deciding how you want to talk about your worries will help you partner with the doctor to address your concerns!

If you're worried about stigma or being judged over something you did, sometimes simply stating that you're concerned about that can be enough to bring your doctor into the present moment with you. Telling them directly also helps them quickly understand where you're coming from. Most folks have had not-so-great experiences with doctors; communicating

effectively helps introduce more comfort to the conversation. When you partner with your doctor, you create a team where all members are working toward your health goals!

Next, having your health concerns disregarded is called "medical gaslighting." When this happens, it's critical to advocate for yourself as this can have life-or-death consequences. Sometimes medical gaslighting is hard to spot — doctors may say, "It's all in your head," interrupt you, or downplay your symptoms. Remember, medical providers have expertise in medical knowledge and health care, but you know your body best.

There are many ways to advocate for yourself; below are some tips.

- Take notes about changes in your health before your visit, and come prepared with a list of changes, concerns and questions;

- Appointments are short; choose which concern is most important to you and begin with that. It's also okay to ask new questions if they occur to you during the session;

- Ask clarifying questions;
- Ask the doctor to explain their conclusions and how they came to their conclusions;

- Tell the doctor you want to work collaboratively, you want more information, or you'd like to make a decision together;

- Be honest during the visit;
- Make sure there are clear next steps after the visit, and you know how to achieve them.

Dealing with stigma and medical gaslighting is challenging. Be persistent, partner with your doctor and trust your body when you know something is wrong! — Amanda C.



Welcome to the Winter Market
Open Every Saturday
9am-1pm
Closed on Holidays

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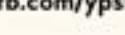
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734-707-1795

ART ON A JOURNEY GALLERY December 1-23

The Art on a Journey Gallery is a non-profit gallery of local artists who are currently unsheltered, have been affected by homelessness or are housing insecure and at risk of becoming homeless. Each artist is encouraged to express and share their journey through stunning creations of visual art or unique textiles, for example, that are available for purchase.



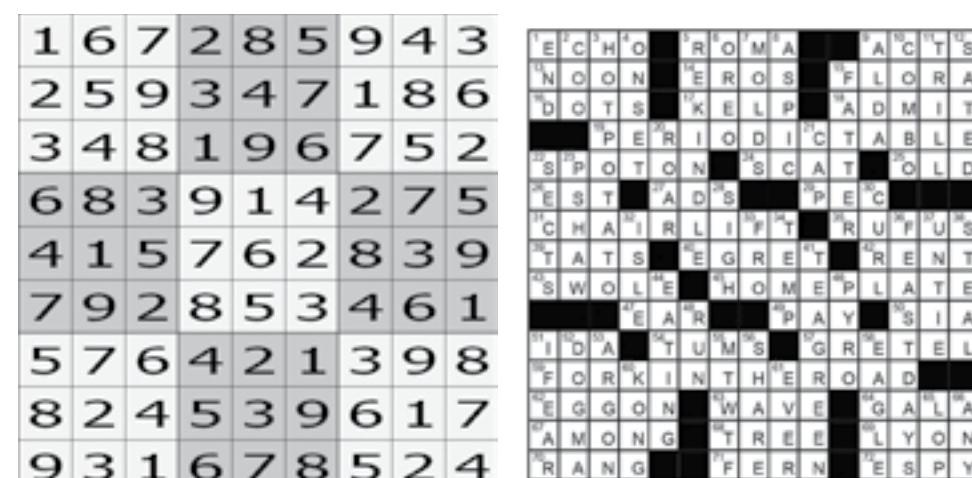
at The Deep End Cafe & Gallery
310 Perrin St. Ypsilanti, MI 48197
www.tdecafe.com



THE DEEP END

Art by: Alice, Cindy, Eric, Gordon, Rachel, Rose, Shannon and Walt
www.artonajourney.gallery

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



Easy shortbread cookies

JOHN BUCKLEY
Groundcover contributor

Ingredients:

1 cup sugar (white or brown)
2 cups softened butter (4 sticks)
4 cups all-purpose flour
If I'm feeling fancy, I also mix in one or both of these:
1 Tablespoon vanilla
1 Tablespoon cinnamon

Directions:

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Cream butter and sugar, then add flour and optional additions.

Spread a little more flour on a flat surface so the dough doesn't get too sticky. Knead the dough for about 5 minutes. Some people roll the dough to 1/2", chill it, and then cut out rows of rectangles (3" x 1").

Instead, I wash my hands, roll the



dough into large marble-sized spheres, and then flatten them into circles.

Put about a dozen cookies on a baking sheet covered with parchment paper. Bake each sheet of cookies for 20–25 minutes. You should get five or six dozen out of the dough you made.

That's it!



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Holiday Gifts, Decorations, Tree Sale

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Toy Sale

November 24 - December 30

{ Fridays from 9 am - 1 pm and Saturdays from 9 am - 3 pm }



Kiwanis
Thrift Sale

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a2kiwanis.org | 734-665-0450 | [f](#) [i](#)

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- Are facing housing insecurity or
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- Are experiencing extreme financial difficulty or
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hshv.org/pop-up-vaccine-clinic



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